

Springfield city Club Activity ramps up – Join now

We've started of 2018 with a bang! First, a packed house for Mayor Christine Lundberg, as she started her State of the City tour, followed by a popular discussion of the short session of the Legislature featuring Lee Beyer, John Lively and Cedric Hayden.

February was even more exciting with a vigorous discussion of the Second Amendment and firearms safety with Sen. Floyd Prozanski and Kevin Starett of the Oregon Firearms Federation, followed by another packed house for the first of a series of two programs on Homelessness.

The upcoming programs are just as exciting, if not more so.

On March 1 we will complete the series on homelessness by discussing potential solutions.

On March 15, retired Supreme Court Judge David Brewer will lead a discussion on civil discourse – a critically vital topic in this time of polarization and rage on all parts of the spectrum.

April will see us turn to things political, with a discussion of the electoral college and other federal issues, as well as candidate forums for State and local and county offices affecting the community.

In May we will cooperate with Eugene to bring two international experts to discuss how this country can move to a more rational and less expensive system for providing health care; what we can learn from other states and from other countries.

We certainly hope to have full houses for every meeting. Now is the opportunity to join City Club so you can be part of the discussion.

Click here to get a membership form on line:  
<http://www.springfieldcityclub.org/memberform.html>

## MEETING CALENDAR

### **March 1 – HOMELESSNESS: ARE THERE SOLUTIONS?**

A two part discussion of issues surrounding homelessness in Springfield and some of the alternatives that exist to find affordable housing.

### **March 15 – CIVIL DISCOURSE: A TOOL FOR GETTING THE PEOPLE'S WORK DONE.**

Civil discourse isn't just about being nice; rather, it's by far the best long term strategy for developing and implementing sound policy and practice in both the public and private sectors.

## PUBLIC CALENDAR

**All items are tentative and subject to change**

### **SPRINGFIELD CITY COUNCIL**

March 5, 2018

Work session 6:00 p.m.

Arts Commission Charge and Bylaws

Regular Session 7:00 p.m.

PH Supp. Budget #2

Annual Criminal Code Update

ADU code amendments

March 12, 2018

Work session 5:30 p.m.

Committee interviews

March 19, 2018

Work Session 6:00 p.m.

Transportation Funding Priorities

Regular Session 7:00 p.m.

Annual Criminal Code update

March 26, 2018

Work session 5:30 p.m.

Affordable Housing Strategy

### **LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

March 6, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.

March 13, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.

March 14, 2018

Work session citizen initiative and board referral process

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March 20, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.  
March 27, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.

**LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT**

March 21, 2018 – Board meeting 5:30 p.m.

**SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL BOARD**

**BOARD OFFICES HAVE RELOCATED TO 640 A STREET**

*The agenda for scheduled board meetings can be found at [www.springfield.k12.or.us/board-meetings](http://www.springfield.k12.or.us/board-meetings) the Thursday before the meeting at 12:00 p.m.*

March 12, 2018 – Board meeting 7:00 p.m.  
March 21, 2018 – Hamlin Grand Opening 5:30 p.m.

**WILLAMALANE PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT**

March 14, 2018 – Board meeting 6:30 p.m.

**SPRINGFIELD UTILITY BOARD**

March 14, 2018 – Board meeting 6:00 p.m.

## MEETINGS

### FEBRUARY 1: FIREARMS SAFETY AND THE SECOND AMENDMENT

Springfield City Club was treated to a vigorous discussion of firearms safety within the context of the Second Amendment at the February 1 meeting.

Senator Floyd Prozanski, who has a long history of supporting regulations on access to firearms, and Kevin Starrett, the Executive Director of the Oregon Firearms Federation, a “no compromise” advocate of gun rights, debated the effectiveness of Oregon’s regulatory scheme to keep firearms out of the hands of those who might misuse them squared off in a discussion which brought little consensus.

Senator Prozanski laid out the history of Oregon’s statutory scheme, which originally only barred felons

from possessing handguns, but changed to a prohibition on all firearms, and an expanding system of background checks, culminating in virtually universal background checks and including legislation in the 2017 session which enabled a court to enter an order requiring those found to be a threat to themselves or others, to give up weapons that they owned.



Mr. Starrett decried the Oregon system as completely ineffective and leading only to denial of the rights of law abiding citizens to buy and possess firearms for self-protection. He provided a list of anecdotes which demonstrated how the checks were rife with mistakes, particularly denials and delays. Sen. Prozanski responded that in the past year there had been over 300 thousand approvals and less than 2 thousand denials, as evidence that the system was not interfering with gun ownership. Mr. Starrett responded by suggesting that former New York City Mayor Michael

Bloomberg had used his great wealth to “buy leftists” who would support an anti-gun agenda.

Mr. Starrett ultimately agreed that felons and those with mental illness should be denied access to firearms, a point made by the late Justice Scalia in his seminal majority opinion in Heller v. District of Columbia, but offered no explanation of how it could be determined that someone should be disqualified, without background checks.

He suggested that the issue was one not related to firearms at all, but a question of human behavior. His recommended solution was to deal with all the societal problems which led people to engage in antisocial behavior. Again, he offered no suggestion on how this might be accomplished.



### FEBRUARY 15: HOMELESSNESS: HAS THE PROBLEM CHANGED?



Although homelessness has been a long-term problem in Lane County and its cities, much remains uncertain about the homeless population, particularly when one attempts to quantify the issue between the two largest cities in the count: Springfield and Eugene. By some measures, the extent of homelessness remains stable. Although the homeless counted in Springfield grew from 1878 in 2015 to 2372 in 2016, it fell back to 2208 in 2017. According to records maintained by the Homeless Management Information System, that 2107 estimate represented 16.47% of Lane County homeless, while 81.43% were attributed to Eugene. Some question the accuracy of those figures, noting that there are more programs serving the homeless whose facilities are in Eugene which might mean that the

homeless describing themselves as being there, simply because they stay near where services are found. Support for that proposition, and for the belief that a larger proportion of the homeless have a Springfield connection, can also be found in the data for all homeless and at-risk populations, where those identifying with Springfield represent a much larger portion.

Lise Stewart, a data analyst with Lane County reviewed the data with the Springfield City Club on February 1. She noted that when she dug deeper into the data that has been collected, a challenging image of the Springfield homeless emerges: they are substantially more impoverished, they are much more likely to have long-term disabilities and they are much more likely to be single individuals.

Jackman Wilson, editorial page editor of the Register-Guard reported that as they completed their yearlong study of homelessness, it became clear that it is not a single problem, but a complex of many interrelated issues. Every time they looked at one aspect, two more popped up. He said that he senses a change in the popular attitude. Homelessness use to be viewed as a charity issue; now it is more commonly viewed as not simply a need for charity, but there is an awareness that homelessness has substantial societal costs. Many now realize that it is less expensive to address the underlying problems than to simply provide charity. He reported that it costs about \$20,000 to treat a homeless person, but not dealing with the issue generates \$30,000 in costs.



The speakers described the FUSE program (Frequent User System Engagement) which tracks service usage by high impact users. Trillium reports that for the top 16 users, costs have decreased by 55 percent. Wilson said that the rest stop system has proven effective, although he said the area needs three times as many stops. The stops provided rudimentary shelter overnight. The rest stops are self-governing facilities which have had success in reducing criminal activity and many other issues. However it is critical to keep people from falling into homelessness. Many organizations are supporting programs like ShelterCare, which keep people in housing because that costs much less than the multi-thousand-dollar impact of trying to get an individual out of homelessness into housing. The impact of providing first month, last month, a security deposit, utility deposits and so on is frequently prohibitive.

**City Club Board of Directors**

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# Springfield City Club

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

### January 2, 2018 –LRAPA Offices

#### In Attendance:

Joe Leahy, President  
Steve Moe, Treasurer  
Dan Egan, Secretary

Kristin Denmark  
Bob Fondren  
Len Goodwin  
Callie Eliot

Carolyn Miller  
Anette Spickard  
Terry Beyer

1. Call to order: The meeting began at 11:35
2. Approval of the previous minutes: The previous minutes were through a motion by Len Goodwin and second by Kristin Denmark.
3. Financial Report: Steve Moe reported that there was approximately \$5,000 in the bank. There was a motion to pay the Board Insurance Fee by Len Goodwin and a second by Bob Fondren. The motion passed.  
Joe Leahy reviewed paid memberships with Steve Moe.

#### 4. Club Programs:

- January 4 – State of the City with Mayor Lundberg
- January 9 – Ballot Measure 101 at the Wildish Theater
- January 18 – 2018 Short Session Preview
- February 1 – Gun Safety
- February 15 & March 1 – Homelessness
- March 15 – Civil Discourse
- March 26 – Dark for Spring Break
- April 5 – Electoral College
- April 19 – Hamlin Tour

There was a long discussion about a potential sexual harassment program. Dan Egan and Callie Eliot will pursue. The other scheduled programs were all discussed and planned.

There was a motion by Len Goodwin and a second by Terry Beyer to make a \$50 donation to the Wildish Theater for hosting the Short Session Program. Dan Egan abstained.

5. Membership: Joe Leahy talked about attracting new members to Springfield City Club. Kristin Denmark asked about a “diversity statement” for the Club. She related feedback from some downtown merchants about the lack of diversity and a perception of less than a welcome in Springfield Downtown. A discussion ensued .....Kristin said she would look at our by-laws before considering such a statement be a part of City Club’s by-laws.

6. Board membership: Joe Leahy thanked Anette Spickard for her time and efforts on the City Club Board – everyone wished her the best in her new assignment.

7. Adjournment: The meeting ended at 12:45